



New earthworm species of the genus Amynthas Kinberg, 1867 from Thailand (Clitellata, Oligochaeta, Megascolecidae)

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Academic editor: Robert Blakemore | Received 11 February 2011 | Accepted 7 April 2011 | Published 14 April 2011

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:81F631C6-D8FA-4301-B027-8C5CEBC21403

Citation: Bantaowong U, Chanabun R, Piyoros Tongkerd P, Sutcharit C, James SW, Panha S (2011) New earthworm species of the genus *Amynthas* Kinberg, 1867 from Thailand (Clitellata, Oligochaeta, Megascolecidae). ZooKeys 90: 35–62. doi: 10.3897/zookeys.90.1121

Abstract

Four new species of terrestrial earthworms from the *zebrus*-group in the genus *Amynthas* Kinberg, 1867, are described from Nan province, north Thailand: *A. phatubensis* **sp. n.**, from Tham Pha Tub Arboretum, *A. tontong* **sp. n.**, from Tontong Waterfall, *A. borealis* **sp. n.**, from Chaloemprakiat district, and *A. srinan* **sp. n.**, from Srinan National Park. After comparing with the two closely related Laos species *A. chandyi* Hong, 2008 and *A. namphouinensis* Hong, 2008, the four new species show clear morphological differences, and also it is confirmed that there are no previous records of the species described here. *Amynthas phatubensis* **sp. n.** is the largest (longest) sized of these earthworms and is the only species that lives in limestone habitats. The genital characters are different among them and also from the two Laotian species. Molecular systematics would be a good method for further analysis of the diversity and species boundaries in SE Asian *Amynthas*.

Keywords

Amynthas, Earthworm, Taxonomy, New species, Thailand

Introduction

Previous taxonomic publications on, or including, the Megascolecidae (sensu Blakemore 2000) of Thailand are comprised of those of Gates (1972), Sims and Easton (1972) and Blakemore (2006b, 2008, 2011) and Blakemore et al. (2007). Collectively, in these publications, 32 species are recorded for Thailand, belonging to five genera (Amynthas Kinberg, 1867, Lampito Kinberg, 1867, Metaphire Sims & Easton, 1972, *Polypheretima Michaelsen*, 1934 and *Perionyx Perrier*, 1872). The genus Amynthas is one of the dominant terrestrial earthworm genera that occurs throughout Thailand and nearby countries. From the classifications by Sims and Easton (1972) and reports by Blakemore (2006b, 2011) and Somniyam (2008), it would seem that 14 species from this genus have been recorded from many areas in Thailand (Table 1). However, in addition Kosavititkul (2005) has reported six species of Amynthas from Khao Yai National Park, which included three unknown species, Chantaravisoot (2007) reported five species of *Amynthas* from various areas in Thailand that were all commented to be new to science, and Somniyam (2008) recorded seven Amynthas species from Nakhonratchasima province of which many are still unidentified. Outside of Thailand, recent publications have included that by James (2004) who described a new species (A. heaneyi) from the Philippines; Shen and Yeo (2005) who reported four *Amynthas* species in Singapore, and Hong (2008) who described two species (A. chandyi and A. namphouinensis) from Laos, and also reported some publications by Vietnamese who studied the earthworm fauna in Laos and described A. xuongmontis. From the above data it is clear that there are still many species waiting to be discovered and described. The Animal Systematics Research Unit, Chulalongkorn University's members have surveyed terrestrial earthworms throughout Thailand since 2005 and a part of their results has been summarized in Chantaravisoot (2007). In the present paper we describe an additional four new species belonging to the zebrus-group, a provisional assemblage designated by Sims and Easton (1972). Each of these new species is known only from its type locality, but as more intensive collecting is undertaken in Thailand and other Asian countries, the known range and habitats of these species may be extended. The habitats of all four new species were in the topsoil layer covered with leaf litter of deciduous forests. The localities were in Nan province, in the north of Thailand, as shown in Figure 1.

Since none of the four species described in this paper seems to fit the descriptions of species described in the past, the purpose of this paper is to formally describe these species as new to science. Their descriptions follow.

Table 1. Morphological characteristics comparison of Amynthas species recorded in Thailand. The morphological characters are from the original description of each nominal species, except for the character with (*) are from Gates (1972). (**) indicate the known localities of Amynthas species in Thailand taken from Gates (1972), Kosavititkul (2005) and Somniyam (2008). Species group are as per Sims and Easton (1972)

	Species	Body length	Number of	Sperma-	Genital	Genital marking	Seminal	Prostate	Intestinal	
Species	group	(mm)	segments	thecal pores	markings	glands	vesicles	glands	caeca	Distribution**
A. hupbonensis (Stephenson, 1931)	aerugi- nosus	225	142	6/8-8//	absent	absent	large in XI, XII	XX-IAX	manicate, XXVII–	Chonburi
A. alexandri (Beddard, 1900)	corticis	145	133	5/6–8/9	absent	absent	XI, XII	XVII-XX	simple, XXVII–XX	Chiengrai, Chiengmai, Nakornratchasima, Bangkok, Chonburi
A. comptus (Gates, 1932)	corticis	197–260*	120-134*	6/8-9/5	three trios on 18/19–20/21	sessile	larger in XI, XII	XVIII	simple, XXVII– XXIII	Phrae
A. exiguus austrinus (Gates, 1932)	corticis	33–68	73–102	5/6–8/9	two pairs on 17/18,18/19	absent	small in XI, XII	XVII-XX	simple, XXVII– XXIV	Chiengmai
A. exiguus exiguus (Gates, 1930)	corticis	43	06	6/8-9/5	paired on vii, viii, xix, xx	absent	small in XI, XII	XIX-IIAX	simple, XXVII– XXIV	Phrae
A. longicauliculatus (Gates, 1931)	corticis	170	138	5/6–8/9	three pairs on 18/19– 20/21	sessile	XI, XII	XVIII	simple, xxvii-xxiv	Chiengmai, Lumphun, Nakornratchasima
A. manicata decorosa (Gates, 1932)	corticis	40	09	5/6–8/9	one pair on xviii	sessile	large in XI, XII	XVII-XIX	manicate, XXVII–XXII	Chiengmai
A. mekongianus (Cognetti, 1922)	corticis	1 meter	370	5/6-8/9	absent	absent	10/11-	XVII- XVIII	simple, XXVII- XXIII	Chiengrai

Species	Species	Body length (mm)	Number of	Sperma-	Genital	Genital marking	Seminal vesicles	Prostate olands	Intestinal	Distribution**
A. defecta (Gates, 1930)	gracilis	>78	>49	2/6–7/8	absent	absent	small in XI, XII	absent	manicate, XXVII—	Nakornratchasima
A. gracilis (Rosa, 1891)	gracilis	100	88–95	8//2-9/5	clusters on xviii	stalked*	XI, XII*	XVII- XXIII	simple, XXVII– XXIV*	Dor Kiu Koh Ma, north Thailand
A. papulosus (Rosa, 1896)	gracilis	45-50	110–115	8//2-9/5	transverse row on XVII–XIX	stalked*	XI, XII	XVI-XXI	simple, XXVII– XXII*	Yala
A. morrisi (Beddard, 1892)	morrisi	52	93	2/6-6/7	near spermathecal pore	stalked	XI, XII*	XVII- XXIII*	simple, XXVII– XXIV*	Chiengmai
A. fucosus (Gates, 1933)	sieboldi 120	120	114	6/8-2/9	two pairs on 17/18, 18/19	sessile	large in XI, XVII–XX XII	XVII-XX	simple, XXVII–XVII	Nakornratchasima
Amynthas siam. Blakemore, 2011	sieboldi	>70	>73	6/2-8/9	one pair postsetal on XVIII	sessile	XI, XII	XVIII-	simple, XXVII-	Sakon Nakhon

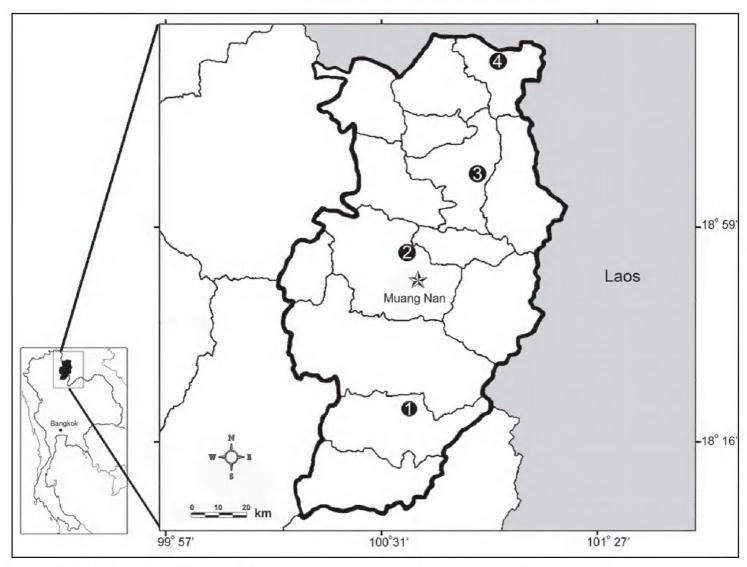


Figure 1. Map of type locality of **1** *Amynthas srinan* sp. n. from Srinan National Park, Nan province, **2** *Amynthas phatubensis* sp. n. from Tham Pha Tub Arboretum, Nan province, **3** *Amynthas tontong* sp. n. from Tontong Waterfall, Pua district, Nan province and **4** *Amynthas borealis* sp. n. from a small hill near Chaloemprakiat district, Nan province.

Material and methods

Earthworms were collected from deciduous forests in many areas in Nan province, north of Thailand, by carefully digging up the topsoil near casts and by hand sorting the leaf litter. The worms were killed in 30% (v/v) ethanol, photographed, transferred to 5% (w/v) formalin for fixation for approximately 12 hours, and then transferred to 70% (v/v) ethanol for longer term preservation and subsequent morphological studies.

Duplicate specimens and/or tissue samples (in the cases of morphotypes determined to be unique on field inspection) were preserved in 95% ethanol for molecular data and DNA barcoding. Tissues were sent to the Canadian Center for DNA Barcoding (Hebert et al. 2003a, b) and processed according to their standard protocols (Hajibabaei et al. 2005; Ivanova et al. 2006; Ratnasingham and Hebert 2007). DNA barcode data are provided for paratype specimens of the first two species described in this paper. The sequences were aligned with Clustal X using default settings, and the resulting Neighbor-Joining tree (Saitou and Nei 1987) was used to identify barcode clusters. These clusters were matched to OTUs identified from quick examination of external characters. Inter- and intra- cluster genetic distances were calculated in MEGA

4 (Tamura et al. 2007) using the Kimura two parameter distance (Kimura 1980) using gamma-distributed rates among sites, pairwise deletion of sites with missing data, and using all substitution types and codon positions.

The descriptions of each species were made during observation under a Stemi DV 4 ZEISS stereoscopic light microscope. Drawings were made of the body segments and the distinct external characters and internal organs, as mentioned above, and are shown in Figures 2–5 for the four new species, respectively. The number of segments and the body width and length were measured in both full adults and juveniles, and are presented as the range (min-max) and mean±one standard deviation.

Type specimens housed at the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, National University of Laos, Vientiane, Laos (BDNUL), of the two closely related Laos species, *A. chandyi* Hong, 2008 and *A. namphouinensis* Hong, 2008, have been critically studied and compared with the new species of this report.

Holotype and paratype specimens have been deposited in the Chulalongkorn University, Museum of Zoology, Bangkok, Thailand (CUMZ). Additional paratypes are housed in the Biozentrum Grindel und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg, Germany (UHH), and the Natural History Museum, London (NHM).

Anatomical abbreviations: fp, female pore; ic, intestinal caeca; mp, male pores; pg, prostate gland; sc, spermathecae; sp, spermathecal pores; sv, seminal vesicles.

Systematics

Genus Amynthas Kinberg, 1867

Type species. Amynthas aeruginosus Kinberg, 1867, by monotypy.

Amynthas phatubensis Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n. urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:299379EB-C7CE-4B89-8A40-40E3122DCAB9 http://species-id.net/wiki/Amynthas_phatubensis Figs 1, 2

Description of holotype: Dimensions; 110 mm by 4.3 mm at segment X, 4.3 at segment XX, 4.0 mm at clitellum; body cylindrical with 108 segments. Setae regularly distributed around segmental equators, numbering 51 at VII, 60 at XX, 15 between mp, setae formula AA:AB:ZZ:ZY= 1:1:1:1 at XIII with no ventral gaps. Single fp at XIV. Prostomium epilobic with tongue open. First dorsal pore at 5/6. Clitellum annular XIV–XVI with no setae.

A pair of mp is located ventro-laterally in XVIII, or at 9th seta line, 0.33 circumference apart ventrally, convex structure; distance between mp 4.2 mm. Porophores (protuberances bearing male aperture), papilla-like structures. Each mp surrounded by six flat, circular

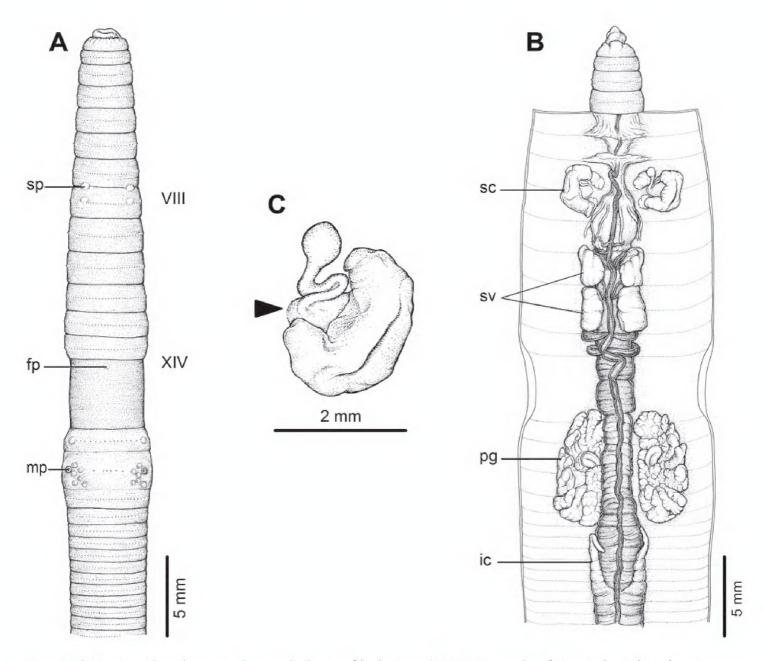


Figure 2. External and internal morphology of holotype (CUMZ 3204) of *Amynthas phatubensis* sp. n. **A** External ventral view, **B** internal dorsal view and **C** spermatheca, and black arrow indicates the connection of the spermatheca and spermathecal pore.

genital markings almost the same diameter as mp, also one pair is equatorial in XVII in line with the male pores. One pair of sp in intersegmental furrow 7/8, distance between pores 0.32 circumference ventrally apart; distance between sp 3.5 mm. Genital markings, rounded, flat, located close to sp, postsetal paired on VII very near 7/8, presetal paired on VIII.

Septa 5/6 and 6/7 thick, 7/8 thin, 8/9 and 9/10 absent, 10/11–13/14 thin. Gizzard large within VIII–X, intestinal origin in XV, no lymph glands observed. Typhlosole small from XXVII. Intestinal caeca originate from XXVII extending forward to XXIII, simple, long finger-shape. Hearts esophageal in X–XIII. Holandric; testes and funnels in ventrally joined sacs in X–XI. Seminal vesicles paired in XI–XII. Prostates in XVII–XX; prostatic ducts U-shape. Genital marking glands absent.

Ovaries in XIII. Sc one pair in VIII; ampulla large ovate sac, duct stout, short; long stalked diverticulum, convoluted kinks enclosed within membrane, spherical knob terminal. No nephridia on spermathecal ducts. A large sessile genital marking gland corresponding to each external genital marking in VII–VIII.

All the key morphological characters of the holotype and paratype specimens are given in Table 2.

Variation: The holotype measures 110 mm body length with 108 segments; the twenty one paratypes range in size from 80–148 mm (108±21.93 mm) body length with 85–114 segments (Table 2).

Type locality: Tham Pha Tub Arboretum, Nan province, Thailand, 18°51'16.4"N, 100°44'10.1"E, 265 meters elevation (11th October 2009). We also collected another lot of further specimens from Tontong Waterfall, Nan province (location 3 in Figure 1), which is located about a hundred kilometers north of the type locality.

Etymology: This species was named after the type locality, Tham Pha Tub Arboretum.

Type material: The holotype (CUMZ 3204) and 15 paratypes (CUMZ 3205) and 10 paratypes (CUMZ 3212) are deposited in Chulalongkorn University, Museum of Zoology. Another four paratypes will be deposited in the Biozentrum Grindel und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg, Germany (UHH), and three paratypes in the Natural History Museum, London (NHM).

Habitat: Found in the top soil at about 10 cm depth, the soil surface was covered with leaf litter in a deciduous limestone forest at Tham Pha Tub Arboretum. The soil was carefully dug close to the casts. Many ariophantid snails, *Cryptozona siamensis* Pfeiffer, 1856 were on the ground or under leaf litter.

Diagnosis: Amynthas phatubensis sp. n. is a medium to large sized terrestrial earthworm with a pair of mp surrounded by six genital papillae on segment XVIII. Within the zebrus-group, this species is diagnosed by the unique combination of dorsal pores in 5/6, simple digitate caeca, ventrally joined testis sacs, genital marking glands in the spermathecal segments, and the spermathecal characters of the large ovate ampulla, stalked diverticulum whose folds are membrane-bound, and spherical knob terminal diverticulum sac.

Remarks: Amynthas phatubensis sp. n. has very simple characteristics of the genus, but among these, only the superficial male pores are external. In most newly collected specimens it was difficult to observe the pores or marks on the bodies. However, after preservation they can be seen more clearly. The internal organs are much more easily discerned. This new species is quite distinct when compared to the two closely related species from Laos, A. chandyi Hong, 2008 and A. namphouinensis Hong, 2008, which belong in the same *zebrus*-group. The two Laos species are a little bit smaller than A. phatubensis sp. n., especially A. chandyi. Even though A. namphouinensis is much closer in appearance to A. phatubensis sp. n., there are distinct differences between the type specimens (Figs 6 and 7). For example, the distance between the mp of A. phatubensis sp. n. is 4.2 mm for the holotype and range from 3.0–4.5 mm (4.27±0.57mm), while for A. namphouinensis this was significantly smaller, ranging from 1.4–1.5 mm. The distance between a pair of sp is also different, being 3.5-4.5 mm (4.12±0.4 mm) for A. phatubensis sp. n. and 1.4–2.0 mm in A. namphouinensis. The distance between the male pores as a fraction of the estimated circumference of the 18th segment is 0.30-0.33 in A. phatubensis sp. n., but 0.10–0.14 circumference apart in A. namphouinensis.

Table 2. Holotype and Paratype dimension and other morphological characteristics of Amynthas phatubensis Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.

Chomodonia.	Body	Number	Location of g	Location of genital markings	-	ž	ımber	Number of setae		
Types	length (mm)	of segments	Preclitellum	Postclitellum	First dorsal	VII	X	Between male pore	Prostate glands	Intestinal caeca
Holotype CUMZ 3204	110	108	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/5	51	09	15	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIII
Paratype CUMZ 3205										
1	06	96	VII, VIII	XVIII	9/5	09	58	15	XVII-XXI	XXVII-XXIV
2	105	107	VII, VIII, IX	XVII, XVIII, XIX	9/5	52	58	12	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
3	100	105	VII, VIII, IX	XVIII	9/9	53	09	6	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
4	80	98	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII, XIX	9/9	53	65	13	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
5	120	96	VII, VIII	XVIII	9/5	58	89	111	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
9	101	85	VII, VIII	XVIII	9/5	51	65	6	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
7	131	98	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	64	67	15	XVII-XXI	XXVII-XXII
8	108	86	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	58	62	15	XVII-XXI	XXVII-XXII
6	116	66	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	53	64	11	XVII–XXI	XXVII-XXIII
10	89	92	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	2/6	64	58	12	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
111	66	106	VII, VIII, IX	XVII, XVIII	9/5	09	63	13	XVII-XXI	XXVII-XXIV
12	112	112	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	52	58	11	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIII
13	142	110	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/5	49	58	7	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
14	137	108	VII, VIII, IX	XVII, XVIII	9/9	62	65	11	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIII
15	80	85	VII, VIII, IX	XVII, XVIII	9/9	54	09	13	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
16	89	111	VII, VIII, IX	XVII, XVIII	9/9	57	59	14	XVII-XXI	XXVII-XXIII
17	84	105	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	52	59	111	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
18	148	112	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	51	58	12	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXII
19	109	114	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	64	65	12	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXII
20	144	107	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	53	09	111	XVII-XXI	XXVII-XXIV
21	84	108	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	64	61	15	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXII

Moreover, A. phatubensis sp. n. has no genital marking glands on segments XVII–XIX, where A. namphouinensis has sessile genital marking glands, but contains two distinct genital marking glands located close to sc that are absent in A. namphouinensis.

Two populations of *A. phatubensis* sp. n. were sampled, one from the type locality and one from Tontong waterfall. Distinct DNA barcode clusters corresponding to these populations had intra-cluster Kimura 2 parameter distances of 0.023 (N=9) and 0.016 (N=5) respectively. The inter-cluster divergence between the two populations is 0.084. Based on the morphological unity and the fact that the divergence is less than that usually seen between congeneric species pairs of earthworms (Chang et al. 2007; Pérez-Losada et al. 2005, James et al. 2010), we choose to maintain the two populations as representing one species. By contrast, the inter-cluster divergence between these populations and three other morpho-species with the same spermathecal battery, from the same two sites is in the range of 0.269-0.294. A consensus sequence from the type locality specimens is in Appendix 1. Another use of COI barcode sequence from type material is in Blakemore et al. (2010).

Amynthas tontong Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:3317146B-143D-4EFC-A0C9-60262073BAFF http://species-id.net/wiki/Amynthas_tontong Figs 1, 3

Description of Holotype: Dimensions; 53 mm by 2.7 mm at segment X, 2.6 at segment XX, 2.2 mm at clitellum; body cylindrical with 80 segments. Setae regularly distributed around segmental equators, numbering 42 at VII, 52 at XX, no visible setae between mp, setae formula AA:AB:ZZ:ZY= 1.5:1:1:1 at XIII. Single fp at XIV. Prostomium epilobic. First dorsal pore at 5/6. Clitellum annular XIV–XVI with no setae.

A pair of indistinct rounded mp in XVIII, 0.19 mm circumference apart ventrally; distance between mp 1.0 mm at 5th seta line. Genital markings closely paired located medial to male pore level in intersegment 18/19. Sp paired in 7/8 at 4th seta line, each small, lip-like structure within porophore, 0.10 circumference apart ventrally; distance between sp 1.0 mm. Genital markings near sp absent.

Septa 5/6 and 6/7 thick, 7/8 thin, 8/9 and 9/10 absent 10/11–13/14 thin. Gizzard large within VIII–X, intestinal origin in XV, no lymph glands observed. Typhlosole small from XXVII. Ic originated from XXVII extending forward to XXV, simple finger-shape. Hearts esophageal in X–XIII. Holandric; testes and funnels in ventrally joined sacs in X–XI. Sv paired in XI–XII. Prostates in XVIII; prostatic ducts long slender with U-shape. Genital marking glands absent.

Ovaries in XIII. Sc one pair in VIII; ampulla thumb shape, duct stout, shorter than ampulla. Diverticulum slender stalk with spherical knob terminal, no genital marking glands observed.

All the key morphological characters of the holotype and paratype specimens are given in Table 3.

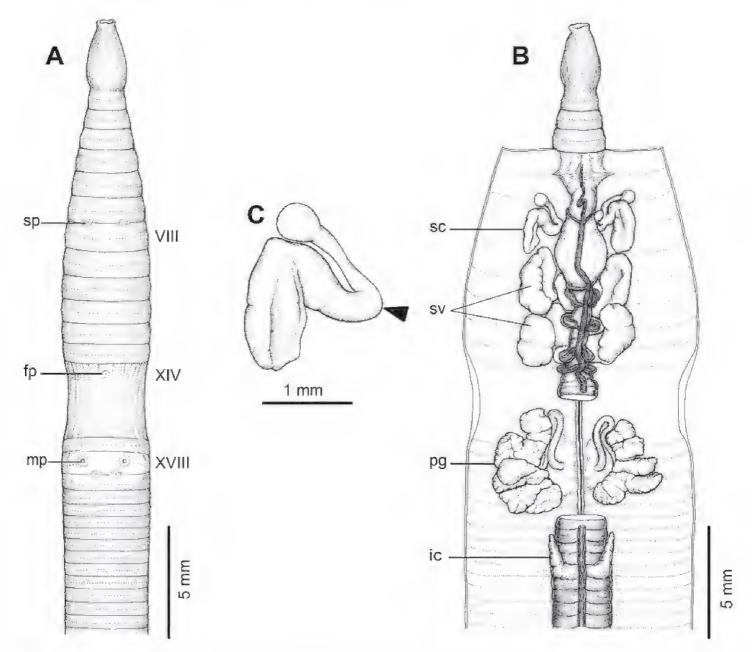


Figure 3. External and internal morphology of holotype (CUMZ 3206) of *Amynthas tontong* sp. n. **A** External ventral view, **B** internal dorsal view and **C** spermatheca, and black arrow indicates the connection of the spermatheca and spermathecal pore.

Variation: The holotype measures 53 mm body length with 80 segments; the three paratypes range in size from 39–41 mm (40.33±1.15 mm) body length with 71–74 segments (Table 3).

Type locality: Tontong Waterfall, Nan province, Thailand, 19°12'35.9"N, 101°04'13.7"E, 1,128 meters elevation (10th October 2009).

Etymology: This species was named after the type locality, Tontong Waterfall.

Type material: The holotype (CUMZ 3206) and two paratypes (CUMZ 3207) are deposited in Chulalongkorn University, Museum of Zoology. Another paratype will be deposited in the Biozentrum Grindel und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg, Germany (UHH).

Habitat: Found in the top soil at about 10 cm depth, the soil surface covered with leaf litter of deciduous forest which originated at the Tontong Waterfall area. The soil was carefully dug close to surface casts. Most surrounding areas have been modified to agricultural fields.

Characters Types	Body length (mm)	Number of segments	Genital markings	First dorsal pore		nber etae XX	Between male pore	Prostate glands	Intestinal caeca
Holotype CUMZ 3206	53	80	XVIII	5/6	42	52	0	XVII–XX	XXVII– XXIV
Paratype CUMZ 3207	,								
1	41	71	XVIII	5/6	41	53	0	XVI–XVIII	XXVII–XXV
2	39	74	XVIII	5/6	42	52	0	XVII–XX	XXVII– XXIV
3	41	73	XVIII	5/6	46	55	0	XVII–XIX	XXVII– XXIII

Table 3. Holotype and Paratype dimension and other morphological characteristics of *Amynthas tontong* Panha & Bantaowong sp. n.

Diagnosis: Amynthas tontong sp. n. is a small sized terrestrial earthworm with a close indistinct pair of male pores with a pair of genital markings in intersegment 18/19. Spermathecae consists of a thumb shaped ampulla and a spherical terminal knob shaped diverticulum. Genital marking glands absent, first dorsal pore in 5/6, intestinal caeca simple, intestinal origin XV, septa 8/9/10 absent, testis sacs joined ventrally.

Remarks: Amynthas tontong sp. n., along with A. srinan sp. n. and A. exiguus exiguus, is one of the smallest sized Amynthas ever recorded in Thailand. The basic external characters are easily seen in both newly collected and preserved materials. Compared with the two other closely related species from Laos, A. chandyi Hong, 2008 and A. namphouinensis Hong, 2008, which belong in the same zebrus-group, A. chandyi is similar to A. tontong sp. n. However, it differs in the specific details of the significant characters, such as the distance between the mp in A. tontong sp. n. is 1.0 mm for the holotype and ranged from 1.0–1.2 mm (0.93±0.12 mm), while in A. chandyi it ranged from 1.5–2.4 mm. The distance between the male pores as a fraction of the estimated circumference of the 18th segment is 0.15–0.19 in A. tontong sp. n., but 0.14–0.32 in A. chandyi. The arrangement of the genital markings of both species are totally different, and the distance between a pair of sp is also different, being 0.8–1.0 mm (1.1±0.1 mm) in A. tontong sp. n. and 1.2–1.5 mm for A. chandyi. Moreover, A. tontong sp. n. has no genital markings near to the sp, whilst A. chandyi exhibits circular genital markings in various locations, paired or single mid ventral in VII, VIII; usually 3 or 4 in total.

Alcohol-preserved paratype specimens of *A. tontong* sp. n. belonged to a single DNA barcode cluster, with an intra-cluster divergence of 0.005 (N=3), and diverging from *A. phatubensis* sp. n. by 0.294, and by 0.189 for an undescribed species. An undescribed morph at Tham Pha Tub diverged by 0.100, and may represent a subspecies. A consensus sequence is in Appendix 1.

Amynthas borealis Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:C2BE17F8-A721-4736-9809-EF9ABDAB0C03 http://species-id.net/wiki/Amynthas_borealis Figs 1, 4

Description of Holotype: Dimensions; 54 mm by 3.5 mm at segment X, 3.8 at segment XX, 3.5 mm at clitellum; body cylindrical with 89 segments. Setae regularly distributed around segmental equators, numbering 39 at VII, 51 at XX, no visible setae between mp, setae formula AA:AB:ZZ:ZY= 2:1:1.5:1 at XIII. Single fp at XIV. Prostomium epilobic. First dorsal pore at 5/6. Clitellum annular XIV–XVI with no setae.

Mp pocket-like structures indistinctly occur in XVIII, 0.10 circumference apart ventrally; distance between mp 1.0 mm; porophores small, lip-like and surrounded by an elevated skin fold at medial pores, and there is a long ridge with a sharp posterior boundary traversing the body in front of the mp. Genital markings absent. Sp paired in 7/8 at 4th seta line, 0.10 circumference apart ventral; distance between sp 1.0 mm. Genital markings absent.

Septa 5/6 and 6/7 thick, 7/8 thin, 8/9 and 9/10 absent, 10/11–13/14 thin. Gizzard large within VIII–X, intestinal origin in XV, no lymph glands observed. Typhlosole small from XXVII. Ic originated from XXVII extending forward to XXV, simple finger-shape. Hearts esophageal in X–XIII. Holandric; testes and funnels in ventrally joined sacs in X–XI. Sv paired in XI–XII. Prostates in XVIII; prostatic ducts long slender bent in U-shape. Genital marking glands absent.

Ovaries at XIII. Sc one pair in VIII; ampulla large sac-shape, flattened by gizzard, narrow duct shorter than ampulla. Diverticulum with elongated tubular shape, stalk attached to duct near body wall, with no genital marking glands.

All the key morphological characters of the holotype and paratype specimens are given in Table 4.

Variation: The holotype measures 54 mm body length with 89 segments; the eight paratypes range in size from 42–45 mm (42.87±1.25 mm) body length with 77–87 segments (Table 4).

Type locality: Chaloemprakiat district, Nan province, Thailand, 19°34'48.5"N, 101°04'53.1"E, 513 meters elevation (7th August 2010).

Etymology: The specific epithet "borealis" derived from Latin word "boreal" mean "north". This name refers to the location of type locality in the north of Thailand.

Type material: The holotype (CUMZ 3208) and seven paratypes (CUMZ 3209) are deposited in Chulalongkorn University, Museum of Zoology. Another two paratypes will be deposited in the Biozentrum Grindel und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg, Germany (UHH), and another two paratypes in the Natural History Museum, London (NHM).

Habitat: Found in the top soil at about 10 cm depth, the soil surface covered with the leaf litter of a deciduous limestone forest, mostly disturbed. The soil was carefully dug close to the casts.

Diagnosis: Amynthas borealis sp. n. is a small sized terrestrial earthworm small male pores, a transverse ridge anterior to the male pores in XVII, and no genital mark-

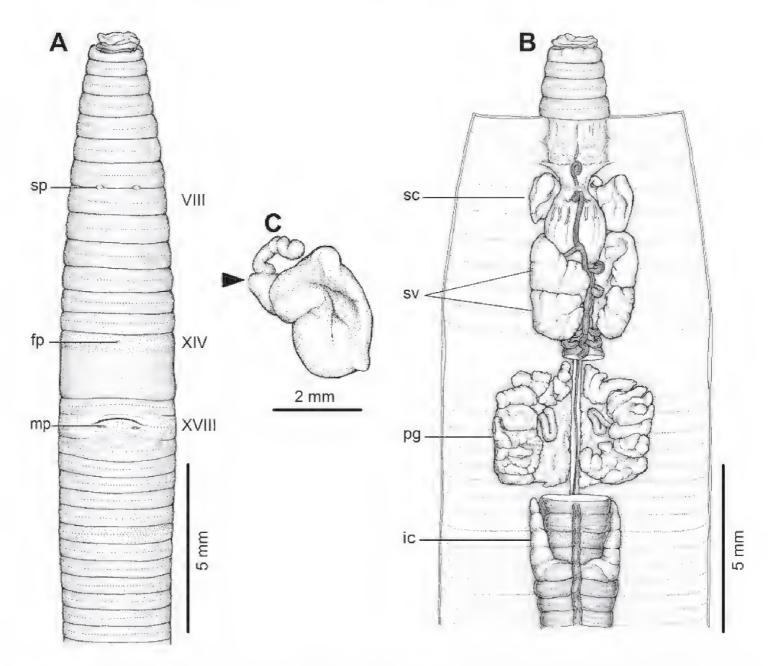


Figure 4. External and internal morphology of holotype (CUMZ 3208) of *Amynthas borealis* sp. n. **A** External ventral view, **B** internal dorsal view and **C** spermatheca, and black arrow indicates the connection of the spermatheca and spermathecal pore.

ings. One pair of sc in VIII, each spermathecae consists of a large sac-shaped ampulla and elongated tubular shaped diverticulum. Testis sacs joined ventrally, intestinal origin XV, intestinal caeca simple, first dorsal pore in 5/6.

Remarks: Amynthas borealis sp. n. is one of the smaller Amynthas. The characteristic male field is difficult to see in newly collected specimens but can be clearly observed after preservation. Compared with the two other closely related species from Laos, A. chandyi and A. namphouinensis, which belong in the same zebrus-group, A. chandyi is similar to A. borealis sp. n. However, distinctive differences include the distance between mp of the new species, being 1.0 mm in the holotype with a range of 0.8–1.0 mm (0.95±0.09 mm) in A. borealis sp. n. compared to 1.5–2.4 mm. The distance between the male pores as a fraction of the estimated circumference of the 18th segment is 0.10–0.14 in A. borealis sp. n., but 0.14–0.32 in A. chandyi. There are no genital markings in the new species; the distance between a pair of sp is also different, being 0.5–1.0 mm (0.9±0.19 mm) in the new species compared to 1.2–1.5 mm for A. chan-

Table 4. Holotype and Paratype dimension and other morphological characteristics of <i>Amynthas boreal</i>	is
Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.	

Characters Types	Body length (mm)	Number of segments	Genital markings	First dorsal pore		nber etae XX	Between male pore	Prostate glands	Intestinal caeca
Holotype CUMZ 3208	54	89	Absent	5/6	39	51	0	XVII–XIX	XXVII– XXV
Paratype CUMZ 3209									
1	45	87	Absent	5/6	51	48	0	XVII–XX	XXVII– XXIV
2	42	78	Absent	5/6	49	45	0	XVIII–XIX	XXVII– XXIII
3	44	79	Absent	5/6	51	50	0	XVII–XX	XXVII– XXIII
4	42	86	Absent	5/6	54	41	0	XVIII–XIX	XXVII– XXIV
5	44	85	Absent	5/6	40	40	0	XVIII–XIX	XXVII– XXIV
6	42	85	Absent	5/6	46	48	0	XVII–XIX	XXVII– XXIV
7	42	77	Absent	5/6	44	50	0	XVII–XX	XXVII– XXV
8	42	83	Absent	5/6	48	52	0	XVII–XIX	XXVII– XXV

dyi. Moreover, A. borealis sp. n. has no genital marking glands at all, whilst A. chandyi exhibits circular genital markings in various locations, paired or single mid ventral in VII and VIII; usually 3 or 4 in total.

Amynthas srinan Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:C3EC91E6-B29A-4C72-908F-1858DE7F21DA http://species-id.net/wiki/Amynthas_srinan Figs 1, 5

Description of Holotype: Dimensions; 47 mm by 1.8 mm at segment X, 2.3 at segment XX, 2.3 mm at clitellum; body cylindrical with 77 segments. Setae regularly distributed around segmental equators, numbering 36 at VII, 42 at XX, four between mp, setae formula AA:AB:ZZ:ZY= 1.5:1:2:1 at XIII. Single fp at XIV. Prostomium epilobic with tongue open. First dorsal pore at 4/5 or 5/6. Clitellum annular XIV–XVI with no setae.

Mp on circular porophores in XVIII, 0.30 circumference apart ventrally; distance between mp 1.5 mm. Genital markings small, postsetal, closely paired near mid ventral

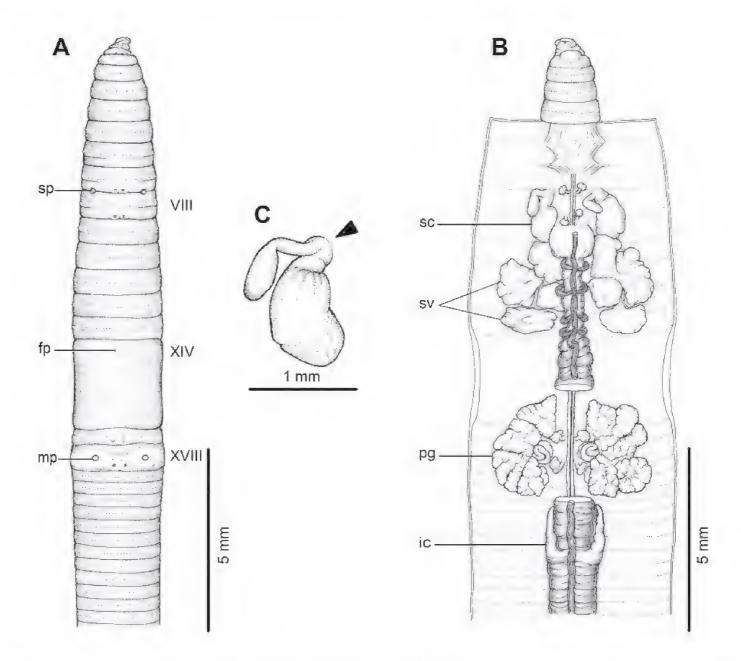


Figure 5. External and internal morphology of holotype (CUMZ 3210) of *Amynthas srinan* sp. n. **A** External ventral view, **B** internal dorsal view and **C** spermatheca, and black arrow indicates the connection of the spermatheca and spermathecal pore.

of XVII and XVIII. Sp paired in 7/8 at 6th setal lines, 0.26 circumference apart ventrally; distance between sp 1.5 mm. Genital markings tiny, closely paired on near mid ventral of VII and VIII.

Septa 5/6 and 6/7 thick, 7/8 thin, 8/9 and 9/10 absent, 10/11–13/14 thin. Gizzard globular within VIII–X, intestinal origin in XV, no lymph glands observed. Typhlosole small from XXVII. Ic originated from XXVII extending forward to XXIII, long finger-shape. Hearts esophageal in X–XIII. Holandric; testes and funnels in ventrally joined sacs in X–XI. Sv paired in XI–XII. Prostates in XVIII, extending between XVII–XX; prostatic ducts tightly folded twice. Genital marking glands paired in XVII and XVIII corresponding to external genital papillae, each consisting of a stalk with terminal multi-lobed glandular part.

Ovaries in XIII. Sc one pair in VIII; ampulla oval to kidney-shaped, with stout duct shorter than ampulla. Diverticulum with oval bulb terminal, stalk attached to duct near body wall. Genital markings stalked, corresponding to external genital papillae; each gland small consisting of a stalk with terminal multi-lobed glandular part.

Table 5. Holotype and Paratype dimension and other morphological characteristics of Amynthas srinan Panha & Bantaowong, sp. n.

Characters	Body length	Number	Location of g	Location of genital markings	First dorsal	Num	Number of setae	Between	Prostate glands	Intestinal caeca
Types	(mm)	segments	preclitellum	postclitellum	pore	VII	XX	male pore)	
Holotype CUMZ 3210	47	77	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/5	36	42	4	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIII
Paratype CUMZ 3211										
1	35	75	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	40	42	9	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXV
2	44	9/	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	36	42	5	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
3	39	65	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	37	46	4	XVIII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
4	44	20	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	98	65	5	XVII-XIX	XXVII-XXIV
5	47	78	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	38	45	4	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
9	37	89	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	40	44	4	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXV
7	38	77	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	4/5	43	48	5	XVII-XXI	XXVII-XXIV
8	37	52	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	4/5	38	42	4	XVII-XXI	XXVII-XXV
6	35	57	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	4/5	41	44	4	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
10	38	78	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	36	40	4	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
11	42	77	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	4/5	42	47	4	XVII-XXI	XXVII-XXIII
12	45	77	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	39	45	5	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
13	40	77	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	40	48	4	XVII-XIX	XXVII-XXV
14	39	77	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	39	47	4	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
15	43	77	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	40	44	4	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIII
16	40	75	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	41	49	4	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
17	37	75	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	4/5	36	46	4	XVII-XIX	XXVII-XXIV
18	36	09	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	40	47	5	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIV
19	39	75	VII, VIII	XVII, XVIII	9/9	37	44	4	XVII-XX	XXVII-XXIII

caeca		\	JIV	ΛI	Λ	JV	Λ	III	JV	λ
Intestinal caeca		XXVII-XXV	VIXX-IIVXX	VIXX-IIVXX	XXVIII-XXV	XXVII-XXIV	XXX-II/XXX	XXVII-XXIII	XXVII-XXIV	XXVII-XXV
Prostate glands)	XVII-XX	XX-II/XX	XVII-XIX	XVII-XX	XVII-XX	XVI-XX	XVII-XIX	XVII-XX	XVII-XIX
Between	male pore	4	4	4	4	4	9	4	4	4
Number of setae	XX	42	46	43	45	46	47	44	45	44
Num	VIII	36	40	41	36	36	39	36	37	39
First dorsal	pore	4/5	9/5	4/5	9/5	9/5	4/5	9/5	9/5	9/5
Location of genital markings	postclitellum	XVII, XVIII								
Location of ge	preclitellum	VII, VIII								
Number of	segments	82	71	99	69	73	92	69	75	78
Body Iength	(mm)	47	42	35	36	42	44	35	38	35
Characters	Types	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

All the key morphological characters of the holotype and paratype specimens are given in Table 5.

Variation: The holotype measures 47 mm body length with 77 segments and the first dorsal pore located at 5/6; the twenty eight paratypes range in size between 35–47 mm (39.75±4.27 mm) body length with 52–78 segments, and first dorsal pore at 4/5 (8 samples) or 5/6 (20 samples) (Table 5).

Type locality: Srinan National Park, Nan province, Thailand, 18°22'11.1"N, 100°50'23.2"E, 607 meters elevation (30th September 2010).

Etymology: This species was named after the type locality Srinan National Park.

Type material: The holotype (CUMZ 3210) and 25 paratypes (CUMZ 3211) are deposited in Chulalongkorn University, Museum of Zoology. Another five paratypes will be deposited in the Biozentrum Grindel und Zoologisches Museum, Hamburg, Germany (UHH), and four paratypes in the Natural History Museum, London (NHM).

Habitat: Found in the top soil at about 10 cm depth, the soil surface covered with leaf litters of deciduous forest. The soil was carefully dug close to the castes.

Diagnosis: Amynthas srinan sp. n. is the smallest Amynthas ever collected in Thailand. Male pores on distinct round porophores, genital markings paired near mid ventral of VII, VIII, XVII and XVIII; each with genital marking glands. Each spermathecae consists of a kidney-shaped ampulla and an oval shaped diverticulum. Testes sacs ventrally joined, intestinal origin XV, intestinal caeca simple, first dorsal pores at 4/5 or 5/6.

Remarks: *Amynthas srinan* sp. n., along with *A. exiguus exiguus* and *A. tontong* sp. n., is one of if not the smallest *Amynthas* recorded so far. It has external characteristics which are easily seen in both newly collected and preserved materials. Compared with the two other closely related species from Laos, A. chandyi and A. namphouinensis, which belong in the same *zebrus*-group, *A. chandyi* is very similar in appearance to *A.* srinan sp. n. However, they clearly differ in certain specific details of their significant characters, such as the distance between the mp which in A. srinan sp. n. is 1.5 mm for holotype and ranged from 1.5–2.0 mm (1.41±4.27 mm), while in A. chandyi this ranged from 1.5-2.4 mm. The distance between the male pores as a fraction of the estimated circumference of the 18th segment is 0.24-0.30 in A. srinan sp. n., and 0.14-0.32 in A. chandyi. This is not convincing as a diagnostic difference, because there is significant overlap with the highly variable A. chandyi. In addition, although genital markings are clearly observed in both A. chandyi and A. srinan sp. n. on the sc and mp areas, A. srinan sp. n. has a much larger number and different arrangement of such markings. The distance between pairs of sp is quite similar, being 1.5–2.0 mm (1.34±2.31mm) in *A. srinan* sp. n. and 1.2–1.5 mm in *A. chandyi*.

Discussion

The genus Amynthas is widely distributed in the Asian continent, where it is one of the dominant genera. In Thailand it occurs in various types of lowland forest habi-

tats, dry evergreen, moist evergreen, deciduous and limestone forests, encompassing diverse soil pH values, from acidic to alkali soils (Chantaravisoot, 2007) and from clay to muddy sand substrates (Kosavititkul, 2005; Somniyam, 2008; Blakemore et al., 2007). The current four new species described here were all are found in one area (Nan province) but the four habitat types were quite diverse all the same. Amynthas phatubensis sp. n. was found in a limestone area with a mild alkali substrate (pH 7.5–8) of a clay loam structure, whilst the other three species were found in harder sandy clay substrates. The four new species are broadly similar (and so potentially related) to the two species described from Laos, A. chandyi and A. namphouinensis, but differ in both the external and internal morphological characteristics. The geographic structures of Luang Prabang Mountain and Phi Pan Nam Mountain ranges are important barriers for species from both the Thai (Nan province) and Laos side (Xayabouli province) and may have played an important part in their speciation. In addition, the Laos species live at a higher altitude than the current new described species from Thailand, and such selective adaptations may facilitate their morphological discrimination.

The four new species range in size, with respect to other *Amynthas* members, from moderate to very small, of which *A. phatubensis* sp. n. is the longest. The other three species are almost the same size and close to the two Laotian species, as shown in Table 6. However, the spermathecae (sc) and genital marking locations of the four new species are clearly different from the two closely related Laos species. The four new *Amynthas* species described here belong to the *zebrus*-group, as defined by Sims and Easton (1972),in which the spermathecal pores are located on segment 7/8. The size of these four species, relative to other *Amynthas* species, varied from small to medium, ranging from 35 to 148 mm in body length and having from 52 to 114 segments. The first dorsal pore in three of the four species described here, and most of the samples of the fourth species (*A. srinan* sp. n.), is located on intersegmental furrow 5/6, but with some samples of *A. srinan* sp. n. showing the first dorsal pore at 4/5.

Amynthas phatubensis sp. n. is the only species that lives in limestone habitats in leaf litter and also in shallow mild alkali topsoil. The soil humidity can be quite low and is of a clay loam structure. The other three species are smaller in size and were found in almost harder, muddy sandy clay substrates. Amynthas tontong sp. n. lives in deeper soil of a high humidity around waterfalls. Amynthas borealis sp. n. and A. srinan sp. n. are found in deciduous forests, which have mostly been modified as agricultural fields. The soil is drier and harder. The genital marking glands of A. phatubensis sp. n. and A. srinan sp. n. are distinct from other two species (Table 6 and Figs 2–5), whilst A. tontong sp. n. show two postclitellar genital markings that are absent in A. borealis (Figs 3 and 4) The diagnostic differences are shown in the dichotomous key to the sixteen Thai and two Laotian Amynthas species, below.

The zebrus-group is composed of eleven nominal species: Metaphire hilgendorfi (Michaelsen, 1892), A. palmosus (Chen, 1946), A. magnipapillatus (Qui and Wang, 1992), A. zebrus (Benham, 1896), A. culminus Michaelsen, 1899, A. principalis (Michaelsen, 1932), A. xuongmontis (Thai & Samphon, 1990), A. fasciculus (Qui,

Table 6. Morphological characteristics for between these four new species and two know species from Laos

Characters	A. phatubensis sp. n.	A. tontong sp. n.	A. borealis sp. n.	A. srinan sp. n.	A. namphouinensis	A. chandyi
Body length (mm)	80–148	39–53	42–54	35-47	63–92	29–58
Number of segments	85–112	71–80	78–89	26–77	92–94	48–52
First dorsal pore	5/6	5/6	5/6	4/5, 5/6	4/5, 5/6, 6/7	9/9
Setae number						
VII	51–64	41–46	39–54	36-45	52-61	44–54
XX	58–68	52–55	40–52	42–49	53–58	44-57
between male	9–15	0	0	4–6	2-0	2-0
pores						
Preclitellar genital						
markings						
VII	2	0	0	2	0	1–2
VIII	1-7	0	0	2	0	1-2
IX	0-1	0	0	0	0	0
Postclitellar genital						
markings						
XVII	0-2	0	0	2	2	1
XVIII	6–12	2	0	2	0	3
XIX	0 - 1	0	0	0	4	1
XX	0-1	0	0	0	0	1
Prostate glands	XVII-XX	XVII-XX	XVII-XX	XVII-XX	XVII-XIX	XVI-XXI
Genital marking	sessile at VII, VIII	Absent	absent	stalked	sessile at XVII–XIX	absent
Intestinal caeca	simple, XXVII–XXIII	simule XXVII-XXV	simple, XXVII–XXV	simule XXVII-XXII	simple XXVII_XXIV	VIXX_IIVXX elamis

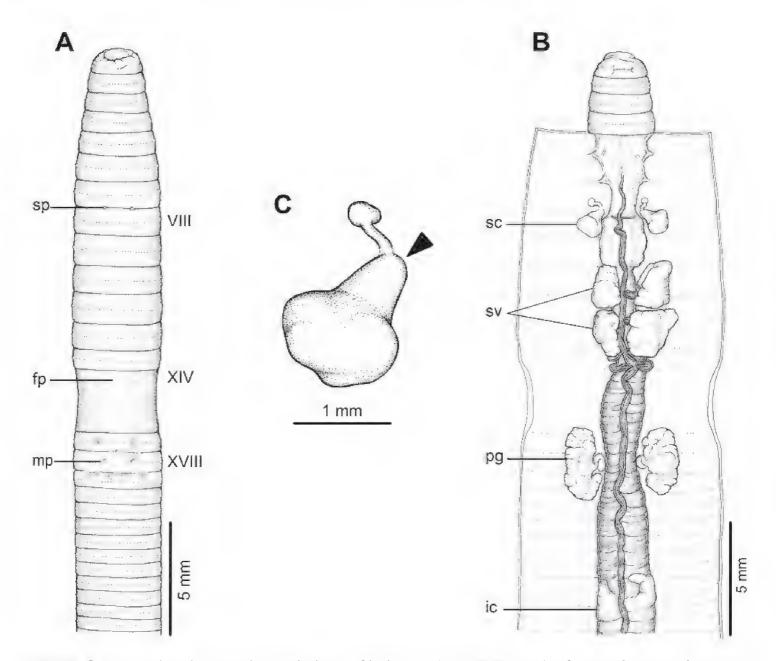


Figure 6. External and internal morphology of holotype (BDNUL 0001) of *Amynthas namphouinensis* Hong, 2008 **A** External view, **B** internal dorsal view and **C** spermatheca, and black arrow indicates the connection of the spermatheca and spermathecal pore.

Wang & Wang, 1993), A. heaneyi James, 2004, A. namphouinensis Hong, 2008 and A. chandyi Hong, 2008. Within the zebrus-group, the first three species show manicate intestinal caeca, while the current newly described four species have simple finger-shaped intestinal caeca. The three latter nominal species are longer in body length (200–300 mm) compared with the size of these four new species which ranged from 35–148 mm. Amynthas heaneyi can be distinguished by its proandric character (James, 2004), while the four new described species are holandric. Amynthas fasciculus has coiled and kinked spermathecae, whereas A. phatubensis sp. n. has large ovate ampulla, A. tontong sp. n. has thumb shaped ampulla, A. borealis sp. n. has sac-shape ampulla, and A. srinan sp. n. has oval to kidney-shaped ampulla. Amynthas xuongmontis clearly differs from these four new species in the genital marking located on XVIII, whereas located on VII, VIII, XVII, XVIII in A. phatubensis sp. n., located between 18/19 in A. tontong sp. n., absent in A. borealis sp. n. and located on VII, VIII, XVIII, XVIII in A. srinan sp. n.

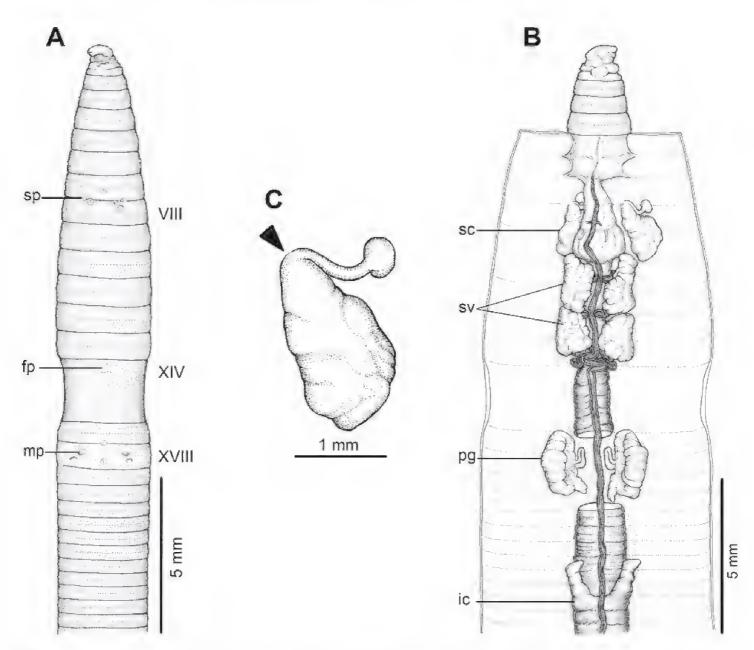


Figure 7. External and internal morphology of holotype (BDNUL 0002) of *Amynthas chandyi* Hong, 2008 **A** External ventral view, **B** internal dorsal view and **C** spermatheca, and black arrow indicates the connection of the spermatheca and spermathecal pore.

Key to Thai and two Laos species of Amynthas

1	First spermathecal pores at 5/62
_	First spermathecal pores after 5/612
2	Two pairs of spermathecal pores
_	More than two pairs of spermathecal pores
3	Three pairs of spermathecal pores4
_	More than three pairs of spermathecal pores6
4	Genital markings absent
_	Genital markings present5
5	Genital markings clustered on XVIII
_	Genital markings transverse rows on XVII, XVIII, XIX
6	Genital markings absent7
_	Genital markings present8
7	Body length 1 meter or more

A. alexandri	Body length less than 300 mm	_
9	Genital marking glands absent	8
10	Genital marking glands present	_
A. exiguus austrinus	Genital markings located on 17/18, 18/19	9
	Genital markings located on VII, VIII, XIX, XX	_
11	Intestinal caeca, simple	10
A. manicatus decorosus	Intestinal caeca, manicate	_
A. longicauliculatus	Genital markings, paired at 18/19, 19/20, 20/21.	11
0/21 A. comptus	Genital markings, three trios at 18/19, 19/20, 20	_
	First spermathecal pores at 6/7	12
14	First spermathecal pores after 6/7	_
A. fucosus	Genital markings located on 17/18, 18/19	13
	Genital marking located on XVIII	_
_	Body length more than 200 mm	14
15	Body length less than 200 mm	_
A. borealis sp. n.	Genital markings absent	15
16	Genital markings present	_
17	Preclitellar genital markings absent	16
18	Preclitellar genital markings present	_
A. tontong sp. n.	Genital marking glands absent	17
A. namphouinensis	Genital marking glands present	_
	Genital marking glands absent	18
	Genital marking glands, present	_
	Genital marking glands, sessile	19
	Genital marking glands, stalked	_

Acknowledgements

This project was the Higher Education Research Promotion and National Research University Project of Thailand, Office of the Higher Education Commission FW646A (2011–2013) to SP, and from Science for Locale Project, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University. We are grateful to Khamla Inkhavilay for kindly permitting us to study the type specimens and relevant reference material of National University of Laos at Vientiane. Thanks also to Thita Krutchuen for excellent drawings, and to all members of the Animal Systematics Research Unit, Chulalongkorn University for assistance in collecting material.

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Appendix I.

DNA barcode sequences for *A. phatubensis* sp. n. and *A. tontong* sp. n. Positions with variable base are indicated by the appropriate ambiguity code: Y= C or T, R= A or G, K= G or T, M= A or C.

The primer sets used, LCO1490 and HCO2198, amplify a 658 bp fragment of the COI gene in a wide range of invertebrate taxa (Folmer et al 1994):

LCO1490: 5'-GGTCAACAAATCATAAAGATATTGG-3'

HCO2198: 5'-TAAACTTCAGGGTGACCAAAAAATCA-3'

Consensus of 8 sequences of *Amynthas phatubensis* sp. n. **Paratype** CUMZ 3212, Gen-Bank Accession No. HM901031-HM901038.

Consensus of 3 sequences of *Amynthas tontong* sp. n. **Paratype** CUMZ 3207, Gen-Bank Accession No. HQ562073-HQ562076.